



The Mustang Magazine

October 30, 2009

Darnestown Elementary School

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Www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/darnestownes/

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"As a committed Professional Learning Community our daily goal is to provide children with opportunities to achieve in a learning environment that values, respects and challenges every child, every day.."

Principal's Pen....



Our community received exciting news this week. Plans for a Darnestown Elementary School addition are included in the recommended Capital Improvements Program (CIP) announced on October 28 by Superintendent Jerry D. Weast! A few years ago, a group of parents concerned about the portable classrooms at Darnestown and the overutilization of our facility, turned their concerns into action and began working with the school and district to pursue a long term fix to address these concerns. Many of these committed parents will not even have children who will benefit from these improvements, but they were determined to make the facilities needs at Darnestown known. Several staff and parents have joined in the effort over the past two years and by working through the MCPS process we are now on the brink of an awesome opportunity for our kids and community. The design and construction would be a three year process. The CIP recommends that funds be appropriated in FY2011 (school year 2010-2011) "to begin the architectural design for a classroom addition. The recommended completion date for the addition is August 2013." The CIP does explain that, "In order for these improvements to be completed on schedule, county and state funding must be provided at the levels recommended in this CIP." In addition, the CIP recommends restroom renovations for completion in 2011-2012! While we are justifiably excited about the prospect of an addition and bathroom renovations, we aren't quite there yet. The superintendent's CIP will need both the Board of Education's approval and the County Council's approval. Thank you so much to all of the parents who have participated in this process. I will keep you posted as this journey continues... For more information on the superintendent's complete Capital Improvement Program visit the MCPS website or: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/>

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, Nov. 2

Professional Day for Teachers, No school for students

Tuesday, Nov. 3

PTA General Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 4

Individual Student Picture Re-Takes

Friday, Nov. 6

Distribution of Materials in student backpacks

Book Fair Preview, 9-3

Monday, Nov. 9

MS Magnet Applications due. Recommendation requests due to teachers from student.

Book Fair Open, 9-4

Tuesday, Nov. 10

Book Fair Open, 9-4

Wed., Nov. 11 & 12

Early Release Days Parent Conferences

Report Card distribution

Book Fair Open, 9-6

Friday, Nov. 13

Book Fair open 9-10 am.

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services has advised us that the previously scheduled H1N1 (swine) flu vaccination clinics on November 4, November 11, and November 18 at Northwood, Northwest, and Rockville high schools have been cancelled due to shortages of the H1N1 vaccine. For up-to-date information about vaccine availability, visit the county's website www.montgomerycountymd.gov/h1n1flu or call the flu hotline at 240-777-4200.



Not sure about the new standards-based grading and reporting policy?...Missed the meeting and need to know what has changed?...This is your chance to get your questions addressed before report cards come home!

PTA General Meeting

Tuesday, 11/3/09, 7:30 pm in the Media Center

Speaker: Mrs. Laura Colgary

Questions? Contact Kelley Rogers (mjcrogers@verizon.net, 301-869-4719)

PTA News



The **2009-2010 PTA directory** is at the printer, and will be distributed next week. Congratulations to **Marco Cappocia** for his winning entry in the front cover artwork competition! Our second place winner was **Sophie Urban**, and her drawing will be featured on the inside front page. Thanks to all our creative artists at DES who submitted artwork for this publication. Many of the other submitted drawings will be showcased in the directory as well, so enjoy the show!

We are pleased to announce that **PTA Movie Night** will be held on **Monday, 11/23**, at the Kentlands theater, featuring the movie 'Planet 51.' Please see the enclosed flyer for more information and ticket order form. Please understand that while every attempt was made to find a suitable G-rated movie, the movie selected is PG, as it was most appealing to all genders and ages. Since 'parental guidance' is a given at this event, we hope that your family will be able attend!

Remember to attend the **PTA meeting on Tuesday, 11/3** (details on front page). We'll update you with news on the expansion of our school, and Mrs. Colgary will answer questions about the new grading and reporting format. We know it's hard to make it out in the evening sometimes, but it is the best way to stay informed!

Congratulations to **Mrs. Waechter's class**, the winners of a classroom pizza party! Her class had the greatest participation at last Thursday's PTA Restaurant Night at Potomac Pizza, although the competition was fierce. We appreciate everyone's patience with this event – terrific turnout slowed the pizza supply, but spirits stayed high. Since 20% of the proceeds from that evening were donated back to the PTA, a big 'thank-you' goes out to all those, ghosts, goblins and fairy princesses who participated in this fun evening, and to Abby Lackey, our restaurant fundraiser chair, for her organizational efforts!

And speaking of pizza... **Domino's Pizza Doughraiser Night** is just around the corner. It will be held on Wed., Nov. 4. On that evening, 15% of the cost of your total order price will be donated back to the PTA, so please remember to look for the flyer/coupon that will be going home in your child's backpack on Tuesday. Again, the class with the greatest participation on Wednesday evening will receive a **pizza party** at the end of November!

Kelley Rogers, DES-PTA President

Way to Go, Mustang Readers!

Thanks to all of our students and families for participating in our first-ever **Read-a-Thon** fundraiser! With your help, we raised **\$19,101.02**, well over our goal, and there are still checks trickling into the PTA mailbox. We extend our hearty thanks to our co-chairs, Tobi Athanas and Janet Swisher, for all their hard work!

Congratulations to the top readers overall:

- **Steven Huntley** (for grades 4-5) – 3,940 minutes
- **Jack Thomas** (for grades K-3) – 2,550 minutes

The top fundraisers overall were:

- **Emily Gazda** (for grades 4-5) - \$441.50
- **Dawson Luce** (for grades K-3) - \$431.25

Prize winners from our raffle were:

- Eliza White (Mrs. Diamond's class)
- Jackson Harris (Mr. Thompson's class)
- Jordan Schiff and Jack Tucker (Mr. Betten's class)

(See our cool graphs on the next page of total minutes read!)

Teacher

Mrs. Jakiun
Mrs. McKenna
Mrs. Souder
Mr. Betten
Mrs. Gibbons
Mrs. Heitzler
Mrs. Cavanaugh
Ms. Gavin
Mrs. Hill
Mrs. Diamond
Ms. Gebicke
Mrs. Sekuler
Mrs. Fawley
Mrs. Smith
Mr. Thompson
Mrs. Mumper
Mrs. Rose
Mrs. Waechter

Top Reader

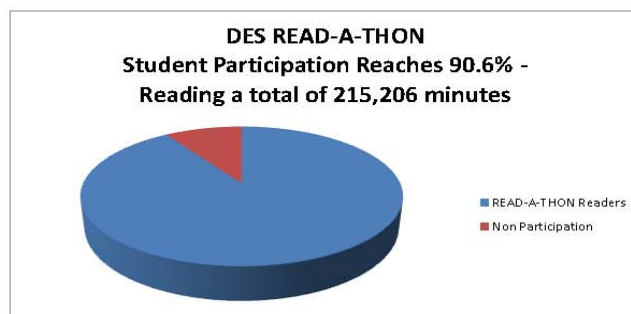
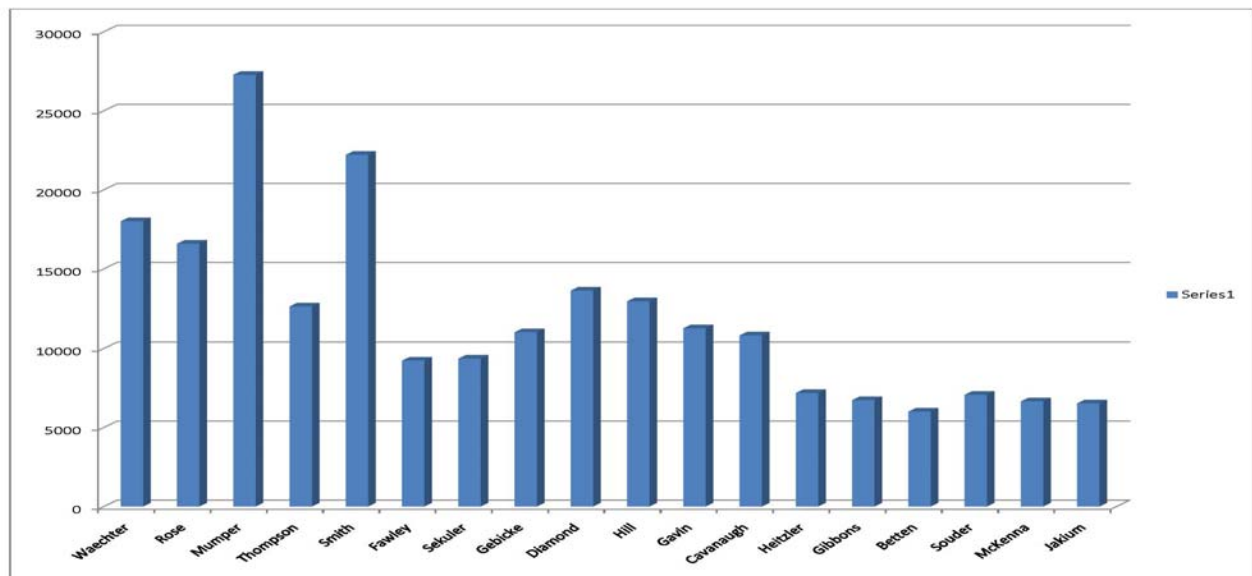
Griffin Sharpe
Daerek Sawyer
Cooper Sharpe
Chase Wilson
Michael Labarge
Evelyn Scott
Sophia Athanas
Emma FitzHugh
Ilana Subramanya
Jack Thomas
Danny Cummins
Cheikh Fall
Ellie Wilson
Brandon Zand
Bitu Ameen
Steven Huntley
Jordan Hundertmark
Matthew Martin

Top Fundraiser

Adam Popovich
Daerek Sawyer
Spencer Adams
Jack Tucker
Dawson Luce
Riley Coffman
Sophia Athanas
Zene Howard
Christina Palfrey
Billy Harral
Katelyn Harral
John Pleisse
Julian Einsel
Matthew Helmbrecht
Kendall Soistman
Emily Gazda
Madison Pfarr
Joey Cederholm

Way to Go, Mustang Readers!

Total Minutes Read (by Class)



Box Tops 'Trick or Treat' Incentive Winner!

Congratulations to **Mrs. Diamond's 3rd grade class** for winning the latest box tops incentive contest. They collected \$14.60, barely ahead of Mrs. Hill's class with \$13.00. Overall we have collected over \$460 since the beginning of the year, well on our way to our goal of \$1250 for the school year. We have a new top class for the fall with Mr. Thompson's 4th grade class at \$41.80, but watch out for number 2 - Mrs. Cavanaugh's 2nd grade class close behind with \$41.40. We have a tie for third place at \$39.90 with Mrs. Gibbon's 1st grade class and Mrs. Hill's 2nd grade class, but the 5th place team- Mrs. Fawley's 4th grade class is within striking distance of the top with \$38.30. Keep those box tops rolling in as we will have another incentive end on November 20th. Remember, the top overall class will receive a special year end party as well as a party for all those classes that surpass \$50. Thank you for your continued support of this program for our school and look for an update on the Campbell's soup label's collections in the next edition of the Mustang Magazine.

Dismissal Procedures

Parents are asked to help facilitate safe, smooth changes in their students' dismissal procedures for each student in their classroom. When there is a change to this dismissal action for your student, parents are urged to send a note to the teacher that morning. The teacher then notes this change on a pass to be used at dismissal time, and sends the note from the parent to the Main Office for filing. This is an important piece of the safety of each of our students.

Students who will be attending an after school activity of any kind that would change their dismissal procedure need a note stating the change with the signature of a parent or guardian. Emails are not accepted as a change in dismissal note. Students who do not have a note will be advised to follow their normal routine.

After school sports program staff are not affiliated with school staff, and those registrations are not done within the school system. Communication between the parent and teacher is key to the student's safety in these instances.

Please review and discuss these procedures with your students.

